W A R D L E U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1 9 5 6

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DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. OLDHAM, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat & Other Foods,
Public Health Inspector.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wardle Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your district during 1956.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(i)	Area in Acres	3,193
(ii)	Population 1951 Census	4,893
(	Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population 1956	4,560
(iii)	Number of inhabited houses at end of 1955, according to the rate book	1,422
(iv)	Rateable value	£32,091
(v)	Sum represented by a penny rate	£134
(vi)	Industries - The chief industries carried out in the area are:- cotton and woollen manufacturing, silk weaving, wallpaper printing, dairy farming and light engineering.	
(vii)	Unemployment - There was no unemployment worthy of mention during the year.	

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	58	28	30
Illegitimate	3	2	1
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	1	1	0
DEATHS OF INFANTS			
Under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	2	2	0

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	10.1
Adjusted	7.1

Still Births:-

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births 16

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	46	28	18

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	13 4
Adjusted	12.2

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total births	33
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Nil
Death from Cancer (all ages)	1
Death from Measles (all ages)	0
Death from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Death from Diarhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births.
Year 1955	12.8	11.7	17
Year 1956	10.1	13.4	33
Change	- 2.7	+ 1.7	+ 16

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in 1956.

Scarlet Fever.

No case of Scarlet Fever was reported during the year.

Diphtheria.

Again there were no cases.

Enteric Fever.

No cases.

Whooping Cough.

Only 9 cases were notified.

Measles.

No case of measles was notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year, this occurring in Birch Hill Hospital.

Erysipelas.

No case to report.

Tuberculosis.

3 new cases were notified from the Urban District.

Anthrax.

No cases.

Poliomyelitis.

None.

TABLE I

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1956 (including cases notified from Birch Hill)

	Total cases at all ages	Total cases notified — Years									Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital from District.	Death in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over			
Smallpox.....	0												
Scarlet Fever.....	0												
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).....	0												
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)	0												
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0												
Measles (excluding Rubella).....	0												
Whooping Cough.....	9		2	4	3								
Acute Pneumonia.....	0												
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1							1					
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	0												
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0												
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.....	0												
Acute Encephalitis Lethergica.....	0												
Dysentery.....	0												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum....	0												
Erysipelas.....	0												
Malaria.....	0												
Food Poisoning.....	0												
Anthrax.....	0												
Meningococcal Infection..	0												
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	4							3		1		2	
	14	-	2	4	3	-	-	4	-	1	-	2	

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED in 1956 apart from Tuberculosis were 10 as compared with 43 in 1955. A comparative table is shown below:-

	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	8	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Measles	28	-
Whooping Cough	3	9
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-
Puerpural Pyrexia	1	1
Dysentery	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-
	43	10

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1956:-

	Males	Females
Cancer	1	0
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	4	4
Heart Diseases	12	8
Diseases of circulatory system	0	2
Pneumonia	2	0
Bronchitis	2	0
Diabetes	1	1
Respiratory diseases	1	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	1
Other ill defined diseases	3	0
Accidents	2	1
Suicide	0	1
	28	18

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding un-notifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. E.K. Gration and Mr. W. Oldham.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1957.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

For the year 1956 I have to report as follows:-

GENERAL SURVEY

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No complaints about the quality of the effluent were received during the year. The structure of the detritus tanks did not worsen during the year.

The sewers throughout the area have been sufficient at all times and again I can report a trouble-free year as far as the two syphons in Dyehouse Lane are concerned. The Ejector caused no trouble.

The sewers were treated for rats twice during the year and post-baiting showed no infestation.

Infectious Diseases.

No disinfections were needed during the year as only Whooping Cough cases were reported.

House Refuse.

House refuse was removed on 39 occasions during the year, and disposed of by controlled tipping at Ashbrook. Nightsoil from pails is also collected in a tank and poured into the sewer. No rat or fly infestation has occurred.

Slaughterhouses.

3 slaughterhouses are now licensed, and are used regularly without complaint.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	482	246	4	1,300	115	Nil
Number inspected	482	246	4	1,099	115	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	2	-	3	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	0.6	1	-	0.3	-	-
Tuberculosis only:-						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	1	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	26	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.4	10.5	-	-	0.87	-
Cysticercosis:-						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The standard of animals slaughtered was good and the incidence of disease was reasonable.

Shops

Meat shops continue to maintain good standard and on the whole the small house and shop traders have kept abreast with the times and introduced refrigerators in greater numbers. Bakehouses are attached to three shops, and have maintained a good standard.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Only 3% of the houses in the district have to rely on wells or springs for their water supply. The remaining 97% have a piped supply which is sufficient and suitable for all domestic purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extensions during the year and the properties still unsewered are either outlying or low lying and are unconnected for economical or engineering reasons.

A scheme for the treatment of Wardle sewage at the Rochdale Corporation Sewage Works was in hand at the end of 1956.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Roch continues to be polluted. The improvement noted last year has been maintained.

Closet Accommodation.

The contribution payable by the Council as an inducement to owners to convert obsolete closets to fresh water flush type is £8 for each pail closet and £4 for each waste water closet.

Smoke Abatement.

6 observations were taken during the year and none exceeded three minutes black smoke emission. A considerable improvement.

Schools.

The three schools in the district are maintained in good order.

Offensive Trade.

The one fellmonger in the district does only tanning. The works are fair but the tank and filter treatment of the effluent is badly insufficient. The result is a very large quantity of strong effluent joining a pure stream nearly at its source and the pollution causes many complaints from residents near the stream and from a factory that uses the water for industrial purposes.

Housing.

32 two bedroom Council flats were in course of erection at the end of 1956. Seven new houses were built during the year by private persons.

5 houses were closed under the Housing Acts, as unfit for human habitation. By the end of the year 5 Clearance Orders for the demolition of 18 houses had been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

TABLE II

Closet Accommodation

	1956	1955	1930
Privy Middens	28	28	55
No. of closets attached to Middens	26	26	55
No. of Pail Closets	74	78	156
No. of dry Ashpits	4	4	9
No. of Ashbins	1,295	1,260	473
No. of houses on Water Carriage System	994	977	444

During the year there were conversions as follows:- 1 to fresh water flush closet from waste water closet and 1 from a pail closet to fresh water flush closet.

TABLE III

Inspections 1956

	Visits or Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Housing	100	69	65
Factories	50	-	-
Food Premises	52	-	-
Slaughterhouses	285	-	-
Bakehouses	12	-	-
Nuisance & others	219	153	145
	718	222	210

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the help of Mr. E.K. Gration, Clerk of the Council, and the staff, for the ready and willing help on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. OLDHAM,

Public Health Inspector.

TABLE IV.

List of Acts and Sections
thereof adopted by the Wardle Urban
District Council

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III) Adopted 15th May, 1891.

2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889. Adopted 6th April, 1899.

3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II and III (excepting S.48) IV and V. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

4. Private Street Works Act, 1892. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

5. Notification of Births Act, 1907. Operative from 13th October, 1914.

6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV). Operative from 31st January, 1927.

7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923. Adopted 2nd August, 1934.

8. Local Government and other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922. Adopted 1st April, 1938.

9. Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, Sections 13 and 14. Adopted 20th November, 1951.

10. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14. 24th November, 1952.

OBSERVATIONS AS TO THEIR ADMINISTRATION:- Good.

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